Export of spices from eastern region

2184. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the spices export from Eastern Region has been showing a decline trend since last three years;

(b) if so, steps taken to increase the export of spices from Eastern Region;

(c) the projection made for the year 1996-97; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) The total value of spices exported has increased over the years as is evident from the details given below:—

Year	Value (Rs. Lakh)
1993-94	57144.01
1994-95	62010.53
1995-96	78589.09

(SOURCE: DGCI&S Calcutta/Spices Board, Cochin)

Region-wise and state-wise export statistics are not maintained.

The target for export of spices for the year 1996-97 has been fixed at Rs. 824 crore.

Apart from the general trade policy reforms, the steps taken to enhance export of spices include abolition of cess with effect from 1.8.1996 on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine), saffron, cardamom and spice oils and oleoresins to make them price competitive in international markets brand promotion schemes like "Logo Promotion", grant of "Spice House Certificate", product development to meet international needs and participation in international fairs and arranging buyer-seller meets.

Action against corrupt officials

2185. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item entitled "Government urged to oust corrupt officials" appearing in Hindustan Times, dated 22nd June, 1996;

(b) whether National Confederation of Officers Associations of Central Public Sector Undertakings had urged to weed out those Chairman and Directors of Public Sector Undertakings who are suspected for their corrupt dealings;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the Chairman against whom court proceedings are or were going on;

(e) action taken against such Chairman and Director;

(f) details of other changes urged by the Confederation for the proper functioning of public undertakings; and

(g) action taken/proposed to be taken on the suggestions of the Confederation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The National Confederation of Officers' Association of Central Public Sector Undertakings has not furnished any details of Chairmen and Directors who are suspected for their corrupt dealings.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) and (g). Other changes urged by the Confederation include removal of administrative tariffs, realisation of all dues from Government, removal of social obligations of PSUs, removal of restrictions on wage settlement, removal of PSUs from the purview of CAG and

CVC, etc. Government receives suggestions relating to Public Sector Enterprises from various organisation/ individuals from time to time and these are kept in view while formulating policy decisions.

Survey to set up SSIs in Haryana and Punjab

2186. SHRI LACHHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey in the Haryana and Punjab to set up of small scale industries for creation and generation of employment opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The primary responsibility for development of Small Scale Industry rests with the State Governments.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Government to create and generate employment:—

(i) To provide self-employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth in the country, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana has been launched in the year 1993-94. The scheme is designed to provide employment to more than a million persons by setting up of 7 lakh micro enterprises by the end of 8th Five Year Plan.

(ii) Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme has been launched in March 1994 to augment infrastructural facilities in rural and backward areas with special emphasis on linkages between agriculture and industry. The scheme envisages setting up of 50 Intergrated Infrastructure Development Centre in the country during 8th Five Year Plan.

(iii) To improve the skills of entrepreneurs, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes are being conducted through the network of Small Industries Service Institutes/Branch Institutes in the country.

(iv) Implementation of 7-Point Action Plan for improving the flow of credit to Small Scale Sector.

(v) Equity type support to the entrepreneurs is being extended through the National Equity Fund Scheme of Small Industries Development Bank of India. The scope of the scheme has been expanded in 1995-96 to cover large sections of Small Scale Industries.

(vi) Technical support through guidance, workshop, testing, Tool Room and Product-com-Process development facilities is being provided through the network of Institutions and associated agencies created for them.

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

2187. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Members of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis have urged Government for rehabilitation of scavengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action on these requests; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, the Members of the Commission in their Ist report of the National Commission for